



**US Army Corps
of Engineers
Fort Worth District**

News Release

Release No. CESWF-PA-01-039 Contact: Ron Ruffennach

For Release: Immediate 16 August 01 Phone: (817) 978-2196

PUBLIC INVITED TO OPEN HOUSE MEETING

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District, intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to assess the environmental, social and economic effects of issuance of a Department of the Army permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act for the proposed construction and operation of a surface lignite mine in Bastrop and Lee Counties, Texas. The EIS will assess potential impacts associated with a range of alternatives.

A public scoping open house meeting will be conducted in Giddings, Texas, on Aug. 21, 2001, with the purpose of gathering information on the scope of the EIS, including the issues to be addressed in detail in the EIS document. The open house will feature exhibits staffed with technical experts who will be able to answer questions on a variety of topics associated with the proposed project and the EIS development. The open house will be held from 3-9 p.m. at the American Legion Hall located on U.S. Highway 77 one mile south of U.S. Highway 290 in Giddings. A number of ways will be available to record public comments; no formal presentations or public forum comment sessions are planned.

Comments on the scope of the EIS must be received by the Corps on or before Sept. 20, 2001. Comments can be mailed to Ms. Jennifer Walker; Regulatory Branch, CESWF-PER-R; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; PO Box 17300; Fort Worth, Texas 76102-0300, or emailed through the Corps' website, www.swf.usace.army.mil (select "Three Oaks Mine 404 Permit Application Public Notice and EIS Scoping"). Telephone inquiries should be directed to (817) 978-2681.